



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
T. C. Passios Building- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady-Absent
Todd Blake-Absent

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Abbie Clark-Absent

Guests

John Londa

-
- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and will be made available to the public. Dr. Berthiaume indicated he had received a thank you note from the Lunenburg Music Aiders and shared that note with the Committee.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes-
 - February 26, 2014 Regular Session Minutes
 - February 26, 2014 Executive Session MinutesAll minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume and committee.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – There were warrants on the table for signatures. No line item transfers were noted.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Superintendent Calmes reported on the upcoming PARCC Assessment. Two classrooms at each grade level at THMS and the 8th grade at LHS will be the pilot groups. Steve Malandrinos and the IT Department have been working to make the technology accessible to every student taking the online portion of the assessment now and again in June. Educators are working to make this a low anxiety situation for our students. Commendation to teachers and students as to how they have handled MCAS and for putting this PARCC assessment into perspective.
 - Excited to announce the Secretary of Education 90 minute visit next week. Thanks go to Mary Foyle from the LEA for coordinating this visit to both the High school and Middle School. School Committee is invited to join us during the visit as well.
 - Preschool and Kindergarten program had recent presentations in conjunction with School Linked Services in which 20 parents attended. Also, District BCBA Mary Young will present "Effective Behavioral Interventions for Children" to this group on May 9th from 9:30am-10:30am at TCP. The Superintendent thanked the staff for providing these extra services to the community.
 - Recently received first visual images of the new MS/HS building from the designer today, and shared these images with the committee.
 - Students from LHS attended the Boston Flower Show. They entered 24 projects and won 21 ribbons. Photos of plants will be posted on the Facebook page, and they are available for public viewing at the LHS library. Thanks to students and Mrs. Gearin for this wonderful Greenhouse program that is self-sustaining with the help of community volunteers.
 - Mr. Londa provided an update on the current year capital projects. He stated they have finished flooring at Primary school with tile instead of linoleum which included a donation from

Armstrong Flooring Co. Mr. Londa indicated that the funds added to the natural gas line still will not cover the costs projected to end the year so an additional \$10,000 is needed. From an energy standpoint options to save costs could be to shut down heating completely during April break, or start heating cycle a little later in buildings every morning. It is anticipated that natural gas prices will increase in FY15. We have had a fixed contract for the past two years. Roofing repairs are being done at LHS by Queen Brothers Roofing for \$9,500 to repair leaks in cafeteria, and rooms 216/218. Repairs will be finished this weekend, and affected classrooms will be cleaned for student re-entry on Monday.

- Superintendent Calmes reviewed the proposed warrant articles for revolving funds. \$20,000 for the Greenthumb and \$25,000 for Custodial Special Detail. These are annual reauthorizations.

* Student Representative - Abbie Clark absent.

* School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin relayed that the SBC met last Wednesday. Proceeding towards completion of design development process. Next submission to the MSBA is April 15th including a new set of cost estimates. The next SBC meeting is April 9th. On target for early package for Massachusetts Avenue field to take the burden off the artificial turf field. As a result there will be new traffic flow pattern at the high school.

* Public Comment –

* Old Business

a. FY 15 Budget Update- Superintendent Calmes indicated that recommended budget will be presented to the FinCom tomorrow evening. Budget Hearing is scheduled for April 2, 2014 at Town Hall.

b. Second Reading Policy Section 3000

* New Business

a. Financial Recommendations- Advisory Committee: Robert Ebersole relayed that part of the charge of the committee was to provide a projected budget for policy/procedural changes, community activities/events, and individual/school events. Based on review of what will be needed, \$30-38,000 is what is recommended. Funding source will hopefully be provided through grants. The committee understands the constraints of the school budget but felt it was important to detail costs. Fitchburg State University is providing free services and supports in documenting the current state of affairs so further activities can measure effectiveness and keep sustainability moving forward. Dr. Berthiaume commented as to the dedication and well intentioned people that were present on the Advisory Committee. He asked if the committee could review one of the school committee goals for suggestions to eliminate transportation costs for families in order to provide their goal of a free, public education. Mr. Mackin commented on the wonderful work by Fitchburg State assessing our current school environment and creating focus groups that have been completely free.

b. Donations- Superintendent Calmes relayed that students are getting ready for Special Olympics, we are grateful to North End Subaru for providing their t-shirts, and to Belmont Springs who will be providing water for the athletes that day. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of these donations. Mr. Mackin made a motion to accept, Ms. Shapiro seconded. Vote: Unanimous

* Public Comment – Mr. Mackin thanked Mr. Londa and the school from the Boys and Girls Club for their efforts in supporting the successful “Are you Smarter than a Sixth Grader” at the LHS auditorium again this year.

* Reports

a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume stated that the school presentation on budget to the committee would be taking place tomorrow at 7pm at Town Hall. The Monty Tech budget will also be discussed.

b. School Councils – Ms. Shapiro stated that the Primary School had not met again since the last report. Mr. Mackin reported that the LHS school council met and there was a discussion around the recent water leaks which Mr. Londa had addressed earlier in the meeting. The Senior Showcase of the LHS Music Dept. is a week from Friday. The long term substitute for Caryn Wardwell will be Mr. William Harris. LHS has adopted a new performance rubric for reading and writing.

c. PTO – Ms. Shapiro reported that they met last Monday but she was unable to attend. Parents Night Out Event for this Saturday is sold out, so 100 tickets were bought. The PTO is working on a Spring Family Carnival Day event to be held on June 8th.

d. Policy Sub-Committee- Dr. Berthiaume reported that they had not met.

e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported that the committee has completed work for the time being.

- f. Wellness Advisory Committee- Ms. Shapiro reported that the committee met last week and there was a discussion about expanding the social/emotional offerings. The next meeting the school guidance counselors will attend. Superintendent Calmes spoke about the recent A.L.I.C.E. Training which Mr. Londa & the principals attended. At the April 2nd school committee meeting representative from Lunenburg PD and the principals will discuss the training in more depth. There was a discussion surrounding school start time and the opportunity for next year to possibly adjust the start time for schools.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported that they will meet this Friday at 11am.
- h. Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity- Dr. Berthiaume stated that they met last week, and they will meet again next Thursday.
- i. Reuse Committee- Mr. Mackin reported that they did not meet this week due to the Town Caucus.
- * Items for Future Discussion- none noted.
- * Executive Session- Executive Session - M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B [3] To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position.
- * Adjournment – Dr. Berthiaume spoke to the need to move to Executive session and adjourn regular session. Mr. Mackin so moved. Ms. Shapiro seconded. Adjourned at 7:53pm.

Roll Call

Dr. Berthiaume-yes

Mr. Mackin-yes

Ms. Shapiro-yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen